World War Braves

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Last week, during a series in Anaheim against the Angels, my Braves found themselves in a bit of an unusual scenario. Former Braves outfielder Jorge Soler, winner of the World Series MVP with them in 2021, took umbrage with current Braves starting pitcher Reynaldo López, following a pitch thrown very inside. This was after previous at bats that saw him hit a homerun and then subsequently get plunked by López. What ensued was a benches-clearing brawl that had the two at the center, throwing a few punches, though thankfully no damage was done. Current Braves manager Walt Weiss, who was a bench coach during Soler's tenures with the club, even inserted himself into the mix by tackling Soler in order to diffuse the situation from any further escalation. No other punches were thrown, and the game continued following the ejections of the two at the center of the conflict.

In other, more global events, diffusing of any kind seems to be at an extreme need, as continued conflicts in the Middle East have caused massive ripple effects that threaten economies and markets everywhere. Accordingly, this upload features some medals that touch upon this very topic, with two in particular that express sentiments at intriguing times. The first, an issue from the Circle of Friends, commemorated the centennial of peace in June 1914 for the 100th anniversary since the end of the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States…

In the most ironic twist of fate, this peace celebration and hopes for a “world police [to be] established and maintained by the great nations as a less evil than the wars of the past” would prove timely, with the assassination of Franz Ferdinand occurring just weeks after this medal was issued, bringing with it the destruction of the world’s first great war.

Another, issued by the Society of Medalists in 1939, looks to the “old world” of Europe, where World War II was just beginning, and reflects upon the “new world” safety in America, an ocean away from the conflict. In reality, as we all know, the ocean did not protect, and the conflict *did* arrive at our doorstep…

Adding some much needed positivity, there is this issue from the Jewish American Hall of Fame series, which commemorates Albert Einstein some 15 years after his death…

Featuring a peace sign and an uplifting message upon the reverse, it is not the only Nobel-related piece of medallic art in this upload, as there is also this French-produced medal from 1964 issued for the 50th anniversary of the Society of Biochemistry, and engraved and awarded to Hugo Theorell of Sweden. Theorell won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1955 for his discovery of oxidoreductase enzymes and their effects…

Of course, there cannot be Nobel Prizes awarded without nominees, and there cannot be nominees without first committees to nominate. As such, here is a nominating committee medal from 1978 which would have been presented to one of the committee members nominating in the field of medicine—here just shy of mint state, graded PCGS SP-58…

Rounding out the more positive messages, there is this hefty two-piece bronze medal from the hand of Kauko Räsänen, which features his three dimensional use of positive/negative space, and with a very important message: “Only One Earth…”

Issued in conjunction with the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, it is a reminder of the interconnected nature of the planet, not from the standpoint of technology or even economics, but from the very basic standpoint that we have but one place to call home, and its protection is paramount to living.

A few other highlights from this upload include:

GERMANY. Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach. Reformation silver Medal. Issued for the 300th anniversary of the Reformation (39mm). By Daniel Friedrich Loos in Berlin. **PCGS MS-64**.

GERMANY. Confirmation silver Medal. Issued circa 1850 (37mm). By Drentwett in Augsburg. **PCGS SP-64**.

For all of this upload's new items, please click **here** or on the banner art below. We'll be back again at the beginning of May with another selection of museum-quality art, historical, and contemporary medals.

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